

Coutts Border

Emerging Public Safety Issue

Emerging issues

- We have credible evidence gathered by the RCMP that there is a high likelihood for armed violence in reaction to police intervention at the main site.
- This information has caused us to shift our operational posture.
- We have evidence to support that there is a core group at the main site that is highly organized and highly sophisticated running the operations.
- The core group is highly skilled and some members of the group have military experience.

Intent

- This core group has expressed that they view this blockade as a war and the RCMP as the enemy in that fight.
- The core group are running counter surveillance operations, they are well armed and well funded and more than one have stated they are willing to die for their cause.
- Our information and intelligence has identified that there are one or more weapons caches on site.
- RCMP believe based on the totality of the information in our possession that this group is well armed and that there is an intention and an ability for the group to use their firearms in an armed confrontation with police or anyone forcibly opposing their objectives.

Objectives

- Our primary objective at this point is to define the extent of the public safety threat that is present and take decisive action to resolve that threat.
- This includes identifying the key leadership and the location of any weapons caches. We are actively pursuing that action.
- Once identified we will take steps through the RCMP Critical Incident Program to arrest the key leadership, seize weapons and conduct a search of the area.

Timelines

- We are estimating short investigative phase that emphasizes public safety over investigative need while providing us sufficient evidence to be confident in defining our key players to maximize the public safety outcome.
- We have an immediate action plan and capability to react to emerging threats.
- We have to consider a number of dynamics and variables in executing the plan.
- We are building our resourcing requirements, supports for a larger more comprehensive operation
- Leveraging resources from our Federal and across the country to meet these objectives.
- The magnitude of this threat was identified through our Federal RCMP counterparts